

NJDOE Division of Teaching and Learning
Office of Teaching & Learning Support *presents...*



The Blast!

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to Summer 2016!

Along with fun in the sun and a good beach book, be sure your summer “to do” list includes checking the [NJDOE Calendar of Events](#) for new professional learning opportunities.

With the NJ Student Learning Standards in place, the Department is updating the NJDOE website to reflect changes and bring you the latest information on division supports. See the “Division News” in this Blast to learn more about upcoming programs focused on those supports to enrich local curriculum and classroom instruction.

My team and I look forward to seeing you soon at a summer workshop.

Kimberley Harrington
Chief Academic Officer
Division of Teaching and Learning



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Division News

Explore the Curricular Framework

Explore the [curricular framework](#) for ELA and mathematics. Read about the purpose and intent of these tools to guide district conversations about the creation of local curriculum based on [NJ Student Learning Standards](#).

New Initiatives in Early Childhood Education

The Department has launched two initiatives to strengthen NJ's preschool through third-grade programs. To assist with First through Third Grade Implementation [Guidelines](#), the NJDOE is collaborating with Rutgers University to conduct a study of primary education and provide professional development on best practices. For information on participating, click [here](#). In addition, the implementation of the Quality Rating and

Improvement System (QRIS), known as [Grow NJ Kids](#), will create universal standards of quality for all child care and early education programs statewide. A recent Department [memo](#) gives more information on how to participate in both opportunities.



NJCORE Update

Check out [NJCORE](#) for lessons and classroom activities for the new school year. Create an account and search for instructional resources or opportunities for professional learning. Visit the [Featured Content](#) and [Professional Learning](#) toolkits to see what's new each month.

Resources for Teaching the NJ Student Learning Standards

Be sure to visit [NJCORE](#) for these and other newly uploaded resources



English Language Arts

Summer Reading and Learning Resources

[Edutopia](#) includes this [article](#) with several ideas for summer reading and other activities to maintain learning skills over the school break. The ideas are free and appropriate for all grade levels.

Start with a Book Website for Summer Fun

[Start with a Book](#), produced by Reading Rockets and the Park Foundation, offers several ideas for engaging students in summer reading to maintain skill levels. Activities encourage exploration and learning across a variety of themes.



Common Sense Graphite Teachers' Top Picks

This [list](#) of recommended, teacher-created "out-of-school learning" resources helps students find "great apps, games, and websites...to practice core skills, as well as pursue lifelong learning." All resources are reviewed and many are free.



Mathematics

Math Journals as Formative Assessment Tools

In this [blog](#), a math specialist advocates for the use of math journals to assess students' understanding of math concepts. She and her team of classroom teachers find that reviewing "students' written pieces, in addition to our classroom observations, helps ground a reflective conversation after the lesson."



Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

Survey of Teens on STEM/Science Education

A new survey of American teenagers from the [Amgen Foundation](#) and [Change the Equation](#) finds that “teens like science and would welcome the opportunity to do more engaging, hands-on science in school.” See a graphic [overview](#) of the survey results or read more details at Amgen.



Career Readiness

Eight Districts Awarded Career Pathways Grants

Eight NJ school districts were recently awarded Building Capacity for Career Pathways grants. The Office of Career Readiness will support the districts with intensive professional development on pedagogy and interdisciplinary instruction, high-quality partnerships, as well as individualized planning and supportive services for learners. Read the press [release](#) for more details on awardees and grant goals.

College- and Career-Ready Summer Workshop

The Office of Career Readiness is offering several August workshops on a range of topics related to college- and career-readiness. For more information and to register online, read the June 14 [memo](#) with dates and locations.



NJDOE Assessments

For current information about PARCC and other state assessments, visit NJDOE [Assessment](#). Resources for districts, educators and parents can also be accessed on this page.



Other Opportunities

Invitation for Literacy Coach Consortium

The Department invites districts to register their literacy coaches to participate in a statewide [Literacy Coach Consortium](#). The consortium will hold sessions from September 2016 through May 2017 focused on networking, sharing best practices and ongoing professional learning. Those interested should visit the registration [link](#) by July 11.

NJ Amistad Commission 2016 Summer Institutes

The Amistad Commission will conduct two regional summer workshops. The emphasis will be on social studies for public school elementary and secondary educators. The southern region institute will be [July 25-27](#) at Rowan University in Glassboro. The new location for the northern region institute is Kean University in Union on [August 1-3](#).

EdCamp Exit 8A

New Jersey Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (NJASCD), New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association/Foundation for Educational Administration (NJPSA/FEA) and The Madison Institute are hosting a summer EdCamp on *Reimagining Learning: The Time is Now!* on July 27. The event is free, but [registration](#) is required. More information on this event can be found [here](#).

Before you go...



How else can we help? [Contact](#) us!



Did you know NJDOE is on [Facebook](#)? Visit us!

...See you in September!